

# Winter Weather Storm Definitions



## Winter Storm Watch

A Winter Storm Watch is issued when there is the potential for significant and hazardous winter weather within 48 hours. It does not mean that significant and hazardous winter weather will occur...it only means it is possible. So what does significant and hazardous mean?

Significant and hazardous winter weather is defined as a combination of:

- 5 inches or more of snow/sleet within a 12-hour period or 7 inches or more of snow/sleet within a 24-hour period.
- Enough ice accumulation to cause damage to trees or powerlines.
- A life threatening or damaging combination of snow and/or ice accumulation with wind.

## Winter Weather Advisory

A Winter Weather Advisory will be issued when 2 to 4 inches of snow, alone or in combination with sleet and freezing rain, is expected to cause a significant inconvenience, but not serious enough to warrant a warning.

## Winter Storm Warning

A Winter Storm Warning is issued when a significant combination of hazardous winter weather is occurring or imminent.

Significant and hazardous winter weather is defined as a combination of:

- 5 inches or more of snow/sleet within a 12-hour period or 7 inches or more of snow/sleet within a 24-hour period.
- Enough ice accumulation to cause damage to trees or powerlines.
- A life threatening or damaging combination of snow and/or ice accumulation with wind.

## Blizzard Warning

A Blizzard Warning means that the following conditions are occurring or expected within the next 12 to 18 hours.

- Snow and/or blowing snow reducing visibility to 1/4 mile or less for 3 hours or longer.
- Sustained winds of 35 mph or greater or frequent gusts to 35 mph or greater.
- There is no temperature requirement that must be met to achieve blizzard conditions.

## Freezing Rain Advisory

- Ice accumulations of less than 1/4 inch.

## Ice Storm Warning

- 1/4 inch or more of ice accumulation.

## Freezing Drizzle Advisory

- Drizzle causing light accumulations of ice is imminent or occurring. A trace to 1/4 inch.

## Freezing Fog Advisory

- Widespread dense fog reducing visibility to less than 1/4 mile that occurs in a sub-zero environment, leaving a thin glazing of ice on roads, sidewalks and windows.